New format of JEE

568. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new format of the Joint Entrance Examination to the Indian Institutes of Technology has borne fruit;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the number of candidates who cleared JEE to the IITs in the first attempt has gone up from 28.49 per cent in 2005 to 43.50 per cent; and

(c) whether it is a fact that many changes made in the new format helped participation of female candidates in a big way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The new format of the Joint Entrance Examination to the Indian Institutes of Technology, which is a single stage examination, has definitely borne fruit.

(b) Yes, the number of candidates who cleared JEE to the IITs in the first attempt has gone up from 28.49 per cent in 2005 to 43.50 per cent in 2006.

(c) In the new JEE format, the application fees for female candidates was half (Rs. 300/-) of the fees of general male candidates. The total number of registered female candidates was 58,997 in JEE 2006 as compared to 29,291 in JEE 2005.

Shortage of qualified teachers in Central Universities

569. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the central universities are facing shortage of qualified teachers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to raise the retirement age of teachers in central universities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, a significant number of teaching posts are lying vacant in some of the Central Universities, namely, Banaras Hindu University, University of Delhi, North-Eastern Hill University, Mizoram University, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya and University of Allahabad.

(c) and (d) While the UGC guidelines already permit re-employment of eligible teachers for upto three years on superannuation, there is a proposal for raising the general retirement age of teachers in centrally funded institutions from 62 to 65 years.

Leakage of examination papers

570. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the examination paper leak incidents are increasing in the country;

(b) the number of such incidents during the last two years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to tackle this situation, which is dangerous for our standard of education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) No Sir. As far as examinations being conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), there has been no case of leakage of question papers during the last two years (2005 & 2006). CBSE has also taken all possible measures to contain the possibility of leakage of question papers.

Review of centrally sponsored education schemes

571. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the progress of centrally sponsored education schemes quarterly;